

Alternative Altars

Unconventional and Eastern
Spirituality in America

Robert S. Ellwood, Jr.



Chicago History of
American Religion
A Series Edited by
Martin E. Marty

Alternative Altars Unconventional And Eastern Spirituality In America

Catherine L. Albanese



Alternative Altars Unconventional And Eastern Spirituality In America:

Alternative Altars Robert S. Ellwood, 1981-02-01 *New Age and Neopagan Religions in America* Sarah M. Pike, 2004
Sarah Pike traces the history of New Age and Neopagan religions in the United States from their origins in the nineteenth century to their reemergence in the 1960s counterculture. She also considers the differences and similarities between the New Age and Neopagan movements as well as the antagonistic relationship between these two practices and other religions in America, particularly Christianity. Covering such topics as healing, gender and sexuality, millennialism, and ritual experience, she offers a sympathetic yet critical treatment of religious practices often marginalized yet soaring in popularity. Her book is a rich analysis of these spiritual worlds and social networks and questions why these faiths are flourishing at this point in American history.

American Spiritualities Catherine L. Albanese, 2001-04-22
This reader explores current interest in spirituality in the United States. It traces the concept and presence of spirituality in the nation's past and explains the strong attraction to spiritual themes in the present with attention to questions of definition, historical usage, and connection to religion. Twenty-seven selections pursue the difference and diversity among Americans in terms of their spiritual styles, here understood as modes of experiential knowledge. Catherine L. Albanese has organized these selections to reflect four approaches to spirituality: knowing through the body or ritual-based spiritualities; knowing through the heart or evangelical and emotionally toned spiritualities; knowing through the will or prophetic and social action spiritualities; and knowing through the mind or metaphysically oriented spiritualities. Taken together, these essays make the argument that the spiritual is human-made, essentially religious, and surely not the same at all American times and places. The anthology includes selections by Catherine L. Albanese, Janet and Robert Aldridge, Daniel Berrigan, Joseph Epes Brown, Charles W. Colson, Annie Dillard, Virgilio Elizondo, Tamar Frankiel, Emma Goldman, Charles E. Hambrick Stowe, B. K. S. Iyengar, Curtis D. Johnson, Martin Luther King Jr., Chen Kung Jerena Lee, Shirley MacLaine, Aimee Semple McPherson, Thomas Merton, Carry A. Nation, E. Burke Rochford Jr., Jerry Rubin, Molly Rush, Starhawk, Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Trine, Joachim Wach, B. Alan Wallace, Steven Wilhelm, and Dhyani Ywahoo. Catherine L. Albanese is Professor of Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She is the author of the widely used textbook *American Religions and Religion*, now in its third edition, and of numerous other articles and books, including *Nature Religion in America: From the Algonkian Indians to the New Age*. Albanese is a former president of the American Academy of Religion. 552 pages, 6 1/8 x 9 1/4, bibl. index, cloth \$25.33, ISBN 0 00 L 50 00, paper \$25.21, ISBN 0 00 L 50 00.

Spiritualism in Antebellum America Bret E. Carroll, 1997-10-22
At a time when the New Age movement is starting to make good on the Spiritualists' vision of America as a grand clairvoyant nation, Carroll's work raises provocative questions about the tension between freedom and authority in the harmonial religions of today. Church History offers the most comprehensive, sane examination of its topic yet available, no mean achievement for a subject long afflicted by religious partisanship and now perhaps in danger of sympathetic attraction. *Journal of American*

History fascinating reading it will be for those with a taste for good scholarly writing and a love of the American past and the manifold varieties of the spiritual quest The Quest In addition to being an excellent introduction to mid 19th century Spiritualism Carroll s work also offers scholars a new vantage point from which to view the religious creativity that was so prominent in antebellum America in general Choice During the decade before the Civil War a growing number of Americans gathered around tables in dimly lit rooms joined hands and sought enlightening contact with spirits The result was Spiritualism a distinctly colorful religious ideology centered on spirit communication and spirit activity Spiritualism in Antebellum America analyzes the attempt by spiritually restless Americans of the 1840s and 1850s to negotiate a satisfying combination of freedom and authority as they sought a sense of harmony with the universe *Transcendent in America* Lola Williamson,2010-01-01 Yoga karma meditation guru these terms once obscure are now a part of the American lexicon Combining Hinduism with Western concepts and values a new hybrid form of religion has developed in the United States over the past century In *Transcendent in America* Lola Williamson traces the history of various Hindu inspired movements in America and argues that together they constitute a discrete category of religious practice a distinct and identifiable form of new religion Williamson provides an overview of the emergence of these movements through examining exchanges between Indian Hindus and American intellectuals such as Thomas Jefferson and Ralph Waldo Emerson and illuminates how Protestant traditions of inner experience paved the way for Hindu style movements acceptance in the West Williamson focuses on three movements Self Realization Fellowship Transcendental Meditation and Siddha Yoga as representative of the larger of phenomenon of Hindu inspired meditation movements She provides a window into the beliefs and practices of followers of these movements by offering concrete examples from their words and experiences that shed light on their world view lifestyle and relationship with their gurus Drawing on scholarly research numerous interviews and decades of personal experience with Hindu style practices Williamson makes a convincing case that Hindu inspired meditation movements are distinct from both immigrant Hinduism and other forms of Asian influenced or New Age groups **Psychological**

Perspectives on Religion and Religiosity Benjamin Beit-Hallahmi,2014-08-21 Is religion to blame for deadly conflicts Should religious behaviour be credited more often for acts of charity and altruism In what ways are religious and spiritual ideas practices and identities surviving and changing as religion loses its political power in those parts of the world which are experiencing increasing secularization Written by one of the world s leading authorities on the psychology of religion and social identity *Psychological Perspectives on Religion and Religiosity* offers a comprehensive and multidisciplinary review of a century of research into the origins and consequences of religious belief systems and religious behaviour The book employs a unique theoretical framework that combines the new cognitive evolutionary psychology of religion examining the origins of religious ideas with the old psychology of religiosity which looks at correlates and consequences It examines a wide range of psychological variables and their relationship with religiosity It is also provides fresh insights into classical topics in the

psychology of religion such as religious conversion the relevance of Freud's ideas about religion and religiosity the meaning of secularization and the crucial role women play in religion The book concludes with the author's reflections on the future for the psychology of religion as a field Psychological Perspectives on Religion and Religiosity will be invaluable for academic researchers in psychology sociology anthropology political science economics and history worldwide It will also be of great interest to advanced undergraduate students and graduate students across the social sciences **Biography of a Yogi**

Anya P. Foxen, 2017 With over four million copies in print Paramahansa Yogananda's autobiography has served as a gateway into yoga and alternative spirituality for North American practitioners since 1946 Balancing traditional yoga metaphysical spirituality and a flair for the stage Yogananda inspired countless people to practice Yogoda his own brand of yoga His method combined the spiritual and superhuman aspirations of Indian traditions with the health oriented sensibilities of Western practice Because the Yogoda program does not rely on recognizable postures and poses it has remained under the radar of yoga scholarship Biography of a Yogi examines Yogananda's career and Yogoda in the wider context of the development of yoga in the twentieth century Focusing on Yogis during this early period of transnational popularization Foxen highlights the continuities in the concept of the Yogi as superhuman and traces the transformation of yoga from a holistic and spiritual practice to its present day postural practice American Folklore and the Mass Media Linda

Dégh, 1994-02-22 This book shows how folklore magic miracles and tales of enchanted princesses and genial giants is still alive and well in the modern mass media contains a wealth of facts and observations with which to conjure Journal of Communication Dégh brings her decades of expertise in folk narrative to bear in this well researched provocative study of the interrelationship between traditional processes of folk narrative performances and modern mass media Highly recommended Choice Spanning folk cultural developments as old as feudalism and as new as today's TV ad American Folklore and the Mass Media demonstrates how vital folklore remains how often it absorbs rather than being absorbed by the most dramatic technological innovations and social realignments Carl Lindahl all six essays are meaty and informative contributions to vital folkloric issues Contemporary Legend **Tibetan and Zen Buddhism in Britain** David N Kay, 2007-02-12 This book

analyses the transplantation development and adaptation of the two largest Tibetan and Zen Buddhist organizations currently active on the British religious landscape the New Kadampa Tradition NKT and the Order of Buddhist Contemplatives OBC The key contributions of recent scholarship are evaluated and organised thematically to provide a framework for analysis and the history and current landscape of contemporary Tibetan and Zen Buddhist practice in Britain are also mapped out A number of patterns and processes identified elsewhere are exemplified although certain assumptions made about the nature of British Buddhism are subjected to critical scrutiny and challenged *Inhaling Spirit* Anya P. Foxen, 2020 This book follows up on recent findings that modern postural yoga is the outcome of a complex process of transcultural exchange and syncretism and digs even deeper looking to uncover the disparate but entangled roots of

contemporary yoga practice In doing so it proposes that some of what we call yoga especially when it comes to North America and Europe is only slightly genealogically related to pre modern Indian yoga traditions Rather they are equally if not more grounded in Hellenistic theories of the subtle body Western esotericism and magic pre modern European medicine and late nineteenth century women s wellness programs Marshalling these under the umbrella category of harmonialism the present book argues that they constitute a history of analogous practices that were gradually subsumed into the language of yoga This allows us to fundamentally recontextualize the peculiarities of Western and especially certain mainstream American form of yoga their focus on aesthetic representation their privileging of bodily posture and unsystematic incorporation of breathwork and above all their overwhelmingly privileged female demographics The initial chapters of the book lay out the basic shape and history of these concepts and practices while the later chapters explore their development into a spiritualized form of women s physical culture over the course of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries including the ways in which they became increasingly associated with yoga

Apparitions of Asia Josephine Park,2014-09-01 *Apparitions of Asia* reads American literary expressions during a century of U S East Asian alliances in which the Far East is imagined as both near and contemporary Commercial and political bridges across the Pacific generated American literary fantasies of ethical and spiritual accord Park examines American bards who capitalized on these ties and considers the price of such intimacies for Asian American poets

Antiquity and Social Reform Dawn Hutchinson,2010-06-09 Although religious innovation in America has historically been the norm rather than the exception mainstream Americans have often viewed new religious movements with suspicion and occasionally with outright alarm The question motivating many studies of new religious movements has been why would someone join these religions In *Antiquity and Social Reform* Dawn Hutchinson offers at least one answer to this often repeated query She argues that followers of new religious movements in the 1960s 1980s specifically the Unification Church Feminist Wicca and the Nation of Yahweh considered these religions to be legitimate because they offered members a personal religious experience a connection to an ancient tradition and agency in improving their world Utilizing an historical approach *Antiquity and Social Reform* considers the conversion narratives of adherents and primary literature of the formative years of these movements which demonstrates that the religious experiences of the adherents and a resonance with the goals of these religions propelled members into social action

Perspectives on the New Age James R. Lewis,J. Gordon Melton,1992-11-03 This book begins with a comprehensive historical section that places the New Age within the context of its predecessor movements It then focuses on specialized aspects of this subculture from essays on the convergence of New Age spirituality with women s spirituality to an essay on how Evangelical Christians have responded to the movement The book also examines the international impact of the New Age

Reflections of Amma Amanda J. Lucia,2014-03-14 Originally presented as the author s dissertation Ph D University of Chicago 2010

Cult Controversies James A. Beckford,1985

Buddhism beyond Borders Scott A.

Mitchell, Natalie E. F. Quli, 2015-06-26 Explores facets of North American Buddhism while taking into account the impact of globalization and increasing interconnectivity *Buddhism beyond Borders* provides a fresh consideration of Buddhism in the American context It includes both theoretical discussions and case studies to highlight the tension between studies that locate Buddhist communities in regionally specific areas and those that highlight the translocal nature of an increasingly interconnected world Whereas previous examinations of Buddhism in North America have assumed a more or less essentialized and homogeneous American culture the essays in this volume offer a corrective situating American Buddhist groups within the framework of globalized cultural flows while exploring the effects of local forces Contributors examine regionalism within American Buddhisms Buddhist identity and ethnicity as academic typologies Buddhist modernities the secularization and hybridization of Buddhism Buddhist fiction and Buddhist controversies involving the Internet among other issues

New Religions and the Theological Imagination in America Mary Farrell Bednarowski, 1989-11-22 Bednarowski is especially good at elucidating the theological daring of these new American religions She demonstrates in a very few pages how theology and group adherence made the individual count a configuration simultaneously American un American and important Jon Butler The cultural confrontation with these new religions is very real and usually very misinformed Bednarowski has gone to great lengths to dispel the ignorance The Christian Century A groundbreaking study Syzygy Journal of Alternative Religion and Culture Organized as a series of theological conversations about ultimate questions this book offers a guide to the answers these six religions offer Drawing heavily on sources from the movements themselves it presents a balanced comparative account of the emerging theological systems of America s new religions

Masonic Temples William D. Moore, 2006 In *Masonic Temples* William D Moore introduces readers to the structures American Freemasons erected over the sixty year period from 1870 to 1930 when these temples became a ubiquitous feature of the American landscape As representations of King Solomon s temple in ancient Jerusalem erected in almost every American town and city Masonic temples provided specially designed spaces for the enactment of this influential fraternity s secret rituals Using New York State as a case study Moore not only analyzes the design and construction of Masonic structures and provides their historical context but he also links the temples to American concepts of masculinity during this period of profound economic and social transformation By examining edifices previously overlooked by architectural and social historians Moore decodes the design and social function of Masonic architecture and offers compelling new insights into the construction of American masculinity Four distinct sets of Masonic ritual spaces the Masonic lodge room the armory and drill room of the Knights Templar the Scottish Rite Cathedral and the Shriners mosque form the central focus of this volume Moore argues that these spaces and their accompanying ceremonies communicated four alternative masculine archetypes to American Freemasons the heroic artisan the holy warrior the adept or wise man and the frivolous jester or fool Although not a Freemason Moore draws from his experience as director of the Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library in New York City where

heutilized sources previously inaccessible to scholars His work should prove valuable to readers with interests in vernacular architecture material culture American studies architectural and social history Freemasonry and voluntary associations

Ritual Healing in Suburban America Meredith B. McGuire, Debra Kantor, 1988 Many Americans believe that people who practice folk healing are uneducated and too poor to afford conventional medical care Contrary to this popular belief Meredith McGuire finds that a large number of college educated middle class suburbanites participate in a variety of nonmedical healing groups In suburban New Jersey people practice such diverse alternatives as psychic healing New Age therapies naturopathy Christian Science Transcendental Meditation reflexology acupuncture yoga Jain meditation Therapeutic Touch reflexology shiatsu rebirthing and occult therapies McGuire places these various healing groups into broader categories according to their traditional sources of inspiration and their beliefs about healing power She then looks at the participants diverse ideas about health and illness By locating alternative healing in the context of these beliefs she shows the many ways the adherents experience ritual healing From publisher s description [A Concise Companion to American Studies](#) John Carlos Rowe, 2010-02-12 A Companion to American Studies is an essential volume that brings together voices and scholarship from across the spectrum of American experience A collection of 22 original essays which provides an unprecedented introduction to the new American Studies a comparative transnational postcolonial and polylingual discipline Addresses a variety of subjects from foundations and backgrounds to the field to different theories of the new American Studies and issues from globalization and technology to transnationalism and post colonialism Explores the relationship between American Studies and allied fields such as Ethnic Studies Feminist Queer and Latin American Studies Designed to provoke discussion and help students and scholars at all levels develop their own approaches to contemporary American Studies

Whispering the Secrets of Language: An Psychological Quest through **Alternative Altars Unconventional And Eastern Spirituality In America**

In a digitally-driven world wherever screens reign great and quick conversation drowns out the subtleties of language, the profound secrets and psychological nuances hidden within words often move unheard. However, set within the pages of **Alternative Altars Unconventional And Eastern Spirituality In America** a charming literary value pulsing with raw emotions, lies a fantastic quest waiting to be undertaken. Penned by a talented wordsmith, this wonderful opus invites visitors on an introspective trip, softly unraveling the veiled truths and profound affect resonating within the fabric of each and every word. Within the emotional depths with this emotional evaluation, we can embark upon a genuine exploration of the book is primary themes, dissect their fascinating writing type, and fail to the strong resonance it evokes deep within the recesses of readers hearts.

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